THE GENESEE FARMER.

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N. GOODSELL, EDITOR.

DOMESTIC SILK.

We were lately shown by a dyer of this village, who was coloring for market, a quantity of sewing silk, which was made by a Mr. HOLT, in the town of Penfield, on the ridge road in this county. It certainly was a fine article—strong in its texture, and even and uniform in the drawing and twist; and we understand he has made more or less for five years past.

We have often admired that our farmers do not introduce so much of the silk trade into the system of their domestic economy, as to employ at least what unproductive labor they may have in their families. Aged persons, females, and even young children can be profitably employed in it The whole operation is as simple as feeding pigs, and the labor and attention of each person properly directed for about six weeks, will yield cocoons or rough silk, that when reeled and twisted is worth from fifty to seventy dollars in market.

The mulberry stands the winters and thrives well in all of these northern regions; they are easily procured and of quick growth, and there is no moral or physical reason, why it shoud not be as profitable and legitimate a branch of agricultural industry, as the raising of flax or wool.

WALNUTS.

In No. 4, we inserted an inquiry from Horatio G. Onderdonk, of Long Island, concerning the propagation of the Madeira Nut, (*Juglans regia*) upon the stocks of Black Walnut (*J. nigra.*)

We assure Mr. Onderdonk that any inquiry in any manner connected with Agriculture will be cheerfully attended to; and although we may not be able in all cases to give satisfaction, we will give such information as we possess, and hope, by the help of many able correspondents, to satisfy all reasonable inquiries.

It was formerly a received opinion that walnuts could only be propagated or grafted by *approach*, which being a tedious process, they have been more commonly raised from seed, and allowed to produce fruit without culture: but it is now satisfactorily ascertained that they may be propagated by budding, and thus any choice variety continued and multiplied. It has been found that the full and prominent buds which are nearest the points of the annual shoots contain the rudiments of the next year's growth in such a state of forwardness, that the evaporation is so great as entirely to destroy them when set in other stocks before an union takes place.

By examining the base of the annual shoots of most fruit or forest trees, it will be found that there are a great number of small eyes or minute buds, which are hardly perceivable; which, owing to the inclination of sap in vegetables, to press to the extreme points, are not forced out, but remain dormant, and only come forward when those nearer the ends of the growth are destroyed, or some other circumstance, which directs the sap into them. By making use of these small buds or eyes instead of the large ones, the operation of budding is rendered almost as sure as that of the apple or pear. With walnuts as with other kinds of fruit, buds should if possible be taken from shoots that are more perfectly ripened, than those into which they are inserted; and as a general rule, the more difficult a variety of fruit is to bud, the more pains should be taken in securing the buds to their places, and in making the incision air tight. This may be done by overlaying them with a small piece of cloth which has been saturated with grafting wax.

The Madeira Nut may be propagated upon stocks of Black Walnuts, and also upon the Hickory and Shag-bark Walnuts, all of which may be transplanted as other forest trees.

AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND.—An American gentleman, a correspondent of the New-York Observer, and now in England, thus speaks, in comparing English agriculture with that of this country:

From Manchester to Birmingham, with the exception of the coal regions of Wolverhampton, and another few miles of poor land, the whole country is a perfect garden. An American farmer knows nothing of English husbandry. The difference is too wide for him to be able to appreciate it.—Select the most cultivated grounds of the rich on Manhatten Island, or behind Brooklyn, or in the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia, or of Boston—and they are only ordinary specimens of English farming. A poor English cottager displays a taste about his humble dwelling, and gets a product from his little patch, which might shame the wealthy farmers of the United States. I wish not to speak disrespectfully of my country, or countrymen—but I should like to provoke them, by whatever means, to more rapid improvements, both in agriculture and horticulture.

The foregoing is a specimen of sycophancy which is too often put on by Americans visiting England, and many a man seems willing to indulge the prejudices of some of our transatlantic brethren, at the expense of the reputation of our country. Would that same American who wrote the above, (if he is one) standing on his own native soil, have declared *that the difference between English and American husbandry was so great that the Americans were not capable of comprehending it? That an American knows nothing of English husbandry? Or that the most cultivated grounds in the vicinity of Philadelphia, New-York or Boston, are but ordinary specimens of English farming?* We presume this same American has become so disgusted with our manner of speaking, that he is ready by this time to declare, that the Henglish ens halways lays twice as many hegs as American ens—and that the Henglish orse is altogether a more waluable hanimal than the American orse.

Having travelled over considerable part of England, and paid particular attention to their course of husbandry, we are willing to give them all their just meed of praise, and connect with it a maternal tribute; but all this can be done without any disparagement to our own Agriculturists.

In order to establish a standard whereby to compare the agriculture of different countries, we must suppose that this, like every kind of business, is carried on solely for the profits attending it. It is true there may be some exceptions to this position, as when gentlemen of fortune turn their attention to it for amusement, which should be considered a kind of ornamental Agriculture, rather than common husbandry. Hence it follows, that that course of husandry which gives the greatest per centage of profit from the capital employed must be considered the most perfect. In order to determine this, three things must be considered, viz: the price of land, the cost of labor, and value of articles produced. All these depend on local circumstances; and the difference is so great between England and America, that a person visiting that country is not prepared to judge until he has spent much time in investigating all the circumstances connected with Agriculture.

An American, on visiting England, finds such a vast difference in the general appearance of the face of the country, the animal and vegetable productions, style of building, manners and occupation of the people, that every thing appears new; and his mind seems entirely absorbed by the novelty of surrounding objects.

If he lands at Liverpool, he is struck with the appearance of those stupendous monuments of art, the numerous docks for the reception of vessels; and he very naturally reflects, when shall we have such in America? Never: they are not wanted; but there they are necessary, and it would be very difficult to transact commercial business without them. When he steps on shore, the enormous size of the cart horses fills him with astonishment, and he is ready to declare that they are altogether superior to any ever seen in America. Now we would inquire, what constitutes superiority in animals but a fitness for the purposes to which they are applied? Would those large horses answer as good a purpose for common farmers in America as those they are already in possession of? We presume not. The horse in the United States is put to different kinds of labor as occasion requires: at one time he is under the saddle, where sprightliness is desirable; again he is in the harness before the carriage, where mildness of disposition is very desirable; or attached to the plough, where patience and hardiness to perform are valuable qualities.—For all these various uses, the large cart horse of England is not as well qualified as our present breeds; and although its symmetry and size may be admired, yet, it is doubtful whether for our use the size of the animal is entitled to the term improvement.

Again, if an American travels through the country, he views with admiration the splendid mansion of some noble family, with its beautiful domain, a park well stocked with deer, and a warren with rabbits, ornamented with an artificial lake filled with fish and fowls of every description, on whose banks is a rookery of aged

pines, and as far as the eye can reach, majestic oaks stretch forth their umbrageous arms, declaring themselves the children of ages long gone by. To the traveller such scenery is delightful; and an American might unthinkingly inquire, when shall we arrive at such perfection in America? Never. To look at such scenery is pleasant, but to reflect upon the causes which produced it, and the means by which it is supported, is, to every genuine republican, unpleasant in the extreme. These are the remains of the ravages of the dark ages, when personal prowess had the advantage of mental improvement, and was the purchase money of some of those Baronial estates, the entailment of which threatens, at no distant day, the dissolution of their Government.—When we reflect upon those estates, extending from twenty-five to an hundred square miles, and upon which there is only one family claiming notice or influence in society, and all this property descending, not as a reward for industry, but by the laws of entailment and primogeniture to one individual of a family, leaving others to beggary and want, and all this simply because one child happened to come into this breathing world a little before the other, as if it was their fault that they did not come in a regular platoon, neither behind the other. Now can any one suppose that an estate of ten thousand acres, owned by one person, but which is capable of supporting two hundred families, one hundred and ninety-nine of which are vassals, administers as much to the comfort of the human family as when each individual family are the rightful owners of a farm of fifty acres? If so, then our ideas of freedom are all a farce, and our system of government a bad one. But it is this law of entailment that has given to England the present enchanting appearance, and the traveller only looks on the fair side of the picture, as the cottages of the vassals are in the back ground. Is this division of property to be preferred to what is practiced in America? We trust not. The very idea of the vassalage of nineteen-twentieths of mankind ought to be sufficient to cast a gloom over all the gaudy show of the few rolling in wealth at the expense of the comforts of the many.

For some particular crops we are willing to allow that the soil and climate of England are better adapted than much of the United States, viz: for turnips, oats, barley and wheat: against these, if we place our crops of Indian corn and wheat, we may say that from a given quantity of ground we can produce as much animal food with the same labor, as they can with their crops. As to potatoes, any advantage which they may claim in quality, we can with propriety claim in quantity. The produce of our grass land, either for mowing or pasturage is equal to theirs; ours produces most, theirs are longer in producing, and their fields retain a brighter green through the different seasons than ours; and as to Horticulture, they take the most pains, and are at the most expense, and we have the most fruit. With regard to Agricultural implements, we believe no one who has visited that country and examined them would hesitate to give ours the preference; and if perfection of farming consists in getting the greatest profit from a given capital invested in the business, we contend the preference is altogether in favor of the American Agriculturists.

HOT BEDS.

The season has now arrived when those who intend to make hot beds should put the materials in a preparatory state. In this latitude, we would not recommend planting a bed until March, say from the seventh to the fifteenth. If beds are made sooner, they require to have an additional quantity of fresh manure put round them in order to keep up the heat, otherwise they become cold, and the young plants frequently suffer for want of heat, or are injured by frosts. When beds are started sooner than March, the plants become so large that they suffer for want of room before they can be transplanted to the garden or open ground. To prepare for a hot bed, manure should be collected from the horse stable and placed in a pile under cover until it begins to heat, which may be known by the vapor arising from it, or by running a stick into it. After the heat or fermentation has proceeded a few days, the heap should be turned by pitching it with a fork, forming a new heap. In doing this the parts which were outside should be placed in the middle, and those parts which have fermented most should be placed the outside. By thus proceeding the heat will soon be revived and rendered more uniform through the whole heap. In the course of two or three days the manure is ready to be placed in the bed, which should be made in size according to the wants of the gardener. A bed of sufficient size for a box to stand upon twelve feet long and five feet wide, is sufficient for a common garden. It is frequently practised with *half-gardeners* to place the manure in a box, but this is not a good way. The bed should be made by placing the manure in an oblong square, about one foot larger each way than the size of the box, and about two feet thick when first made. This should be allowed to remain one day before the box is placed upon it; after which, place the box upon it, within which, new rich soil should be put to the depth of six inches and the glass frames put on. It is important in making hot beds to use new ground for putting in the box, as by using soil from the garden, the roots of most young plants become infested with insects, which, with some plants, as cabbage, cauliflowers, Radishes, &c. frequently destroy them; whereas, by using soil from grass lands, this evil is avoided. After the soil under the glass frames has become warm, the seeds should be planted and covered about half an inch deep. If melons or cucumbers are to be left to perfect themselves on the bed, they should be planted at suitable distances in the centre of the bed. The seeds more commonly sown or planted in the hot bed for this climate, are *cucumbers, melons*, of different varieties; *early York*, and other early cabbages; *early cauliflowers*, either by seeds, or small plants which have been kept through the winter: *Lettuce*, by seeds and self-sown fall plants: *radishes, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, &c.* A hot bed requires particular and constant attention after the plants are up, both in preventing too much or too little heat. During the warm days in April, if the glass are allowed to remain down, the air under them becomes heated to that degree that many plants will be destroyed; and on the other hand, if the glass is taken off entirely, they will be chilled to death. If the bed is allowed to become too dry, the plants will wither, and if too wet, the plants will (to use the gardener's phrase) damp off.

By proper attention to a hot bed, a family may be furnished with vegetables about one month sooner than when grown in open ground altogether; and, by commencing at the time mentioned, plants will be ready to plant out in open ground as soon as spring frosts are past, the process requiring very little skill more than the proper preparation of the ground for their reception. A common hot bed is a favorable place for starting cuttings of different kinds, which may also be transplanted after they have taken root.

LARGE GOOSEBERRIES.

We observe the following notice in a late English paper sent us by a friend, as the largest grown in England in 1831:

The *Red Roaring Lion*, by Mr. Davis, Oswestry meeting, weighing 27dwt. 6grs. (one and one third oz).

Yellow Leader, by Richard Riley, at the Nantwich meeting—26dwt. 17grs.

Green Peacock, by John Firken, at the Rockwood meeting—23dwt. 15grs.

White Eagle, by James Dixon, Chester meeting, weighing 25dwt. 1 grain.

These gooseberries must have exceeded the size of our largest mandrakes, or May apples, and are altogether larger than any thing raised in this country, as yet; the soil and climate of the State of New-York are congenial to the growth of these mammoth varieties, with the exception that the fruit and young growth have a strong tendency to mildew, and rotting about the period of ripening.

The flavor of those we have tasted are rather insipid, and do not possess that piquancy and richness of our native cultivated kinds, which we have no doubt may be improved in size by sowing the seeds, and selecting the best bearers and largest fruit from the plants grown in that way.

Mushrooms. The same paper states that a man, a weaver in Pilkinton, lately produced from an artificial bed in his loom shop, in the space of twelve hours, a mushroom four feet in circumference, with a stem ten inches long, and which furnished a delicious repast to four persons—it weighed 22 ounces.

It would have answered for a markee for the king and court of Laputa, and must have been nearly as large as a modern fashionable lady's bonnet.

To Correspondents.—During the past week several communications have been received, which will be inserted soon. We submit to the author of "Leisure Moments," the propriety of adopting some other signature, as we think the one he has made use of inappropriate—there are few *boys* who make as good use of their time, or apply "themselves unto wisdom" in such manner as the writer of Leisure Moments appears to have done during his boyhood.

Dr. Webster's Dictionary.—We have received from Dr. Webster a reply to the communications of "A Farmer," published in Nos. 51 and 52, Vol. I, for which we shall make room as soon as possible.

Prolific Cow.—A cow belonging to Mr. Wm. McCarty, of Roxbury, (Mass.) had on the 28th March, 1831, *three calves* at a birth; on the 6th of February, 1832, the same cow had three more, making six, in less than eleven months.

From the New York Farmer

THE COUNTRY FARMER—NO. XIV.

On the choice of suitable Land for Farming.

Mr. Fleet—That a *warm* and *dry soil*, or but *moderately moist*, such as a *gravel* or a *gravelly*, or *sandy loam* or *mold*, resting on a sub-soil of much the same composition, but more compact and ponderous, properly a *medium soil*, suitable alike for grain and grass, is generally the best for Farming, is known to all men of extensive experience and observation. I hope I have succeeded in showing why it is so, and why lands, of an opposite character, are not, and to exhibit the true relative character and value of each kind. *Clay*, in due proportion, combined with gravel, constitutes a *gravelly loam*; in larg r proportion, a *loamy gravel*. So also of *sand*, either a *sandy loam*, or a *loamy sand*. Sand, without some *clay*, is rarely found, as soil, and is of little value as such. In all cases, *clay*, in some proportion, is an essential constituent of every composition of earth for a productive soil. If in excess, the land is cold, clammy, hard to work, hard to pulverize, and if very moist, or wet, necessarily barren, doomed to sterility, except by admixture of gravel, or sand, making an artificial soil, by the aid of quick lime. What I call a *gravelly mold*, or a *sandy mold*, is a loam of gravel, or sand, described above, which has in it a due proportion of vegetable remains, the warmest, and most productive of all soils. In choosing a soil, then, a warm *medium soil*, it should be either a gravelly loam, or a gravelly mold, or a sandy loam, or a sandy mold, resting on a sub-soil, that contains rather a larger proportion of clay than the soil. By regulating the depth of his furrows, the Farmer may thus always make his soil of just such composition as may be desirable, in each field of his Farm, and in a way that costs nothing, while the land is constantly increasing in fertility.

Oak and chesnut, every where, grow on soils where sub-soils contain a larger proportion of clay, producing trees tap-rooted, as we call them. On such soils, and sub-soils, other trees approach this character, and lose it on mucky lands, where trees, naturally tap-rooted, cannot flourish, even when planted or transplanted. The red beech, is always inclined to be tap-rooted, like the oak, and the chesnut—the white beech never. The sugar maple, the rock, or hard maple of the northern states, flourishes best in a warm soil, but will grow in mucky lands, yet with less luxuriance. On the Ohio, and the warm mold of that valley, it is as tap-rooted as the white oak. To speak of localities, for illustration of these remarks, Dutchess, and Columbia counties, of the state of New-York, may be noticed. The native trees of these regions, even the oak and chesnut, "open woods," as they were called, and the soils, though various, generally dry & warm, resting on sub-soils more clayey than the soils. Such is the case, also, with parts of Rensselaer and Washington counties, on the east side of the Hudson river, with tracts on the west side, yet to be noticed, and with vast regions elsewhere. Wherever we find a warm soil, of either kind noticed above, it will generally be found underlaid by a sub-soil much like the soil, but rather more ponderous and compact, and having a somewhat larger proportion of clay. Deep ploughing, occasionally, has done much towards the fertility of these lands. Where this cannot be resorted to, the making of artificial soils is too expensive for the profits of farming.

I know not how it has happened, and am in no humor for philosophical speculations, or geological, but the facts I am about to state, will be *new* to many persons, and yet *not new!* It generally happens, in some way, that we find, at no great distance from extensive water courses, and waters, as of rivers, and lakes, ranges of lands all of one character, lying nearly parallel with those waters, at unequal distances and varying elevations. To begin with a smaller locality, let us notice a range of this medium soil, dry and warm, resting on a sub soil of almost a perfectly uniform character, rather more clayey than the soil, extending along the east side of the Hudson river, from the Highlands, through Dutchess, Columbia, Rensselaer, and part of Washington county. The surface is either ridgy, more or less continuous, or tossed into knolls and hillocks, 2 to 5 or more miles distant from the river, variously elevated but every where a different soil from those bordering it, on the east, or the west. It is a dry, warm, and highly productive soil, generally a gravelly loam, and is, in many places, bordered by a stiff clay, by clayey loams, sand, or sandy loam, perfectly distinct soils, or lands, or, to speak geologically, distinct formations. For my purpose, I need not to be more particular, & yet it would be an interesting topic for the most minute examination. Even in the barren sands of Albany county, or the cold and wet sandy loam, or loamy sand, we cross in going to Schenectady, one streak of good land, the similar range on the west side of the Hudson, which I have not time to trace. Similar ranges are found in most countries, in some on a smaller, and some on a larger scale, the soil and the sub-soil so much alike, as to give to those ranges distinct and specific characteristics.

The most extensive range of land of this sort probably in the U. States, is on the N side of the Ohio, between that river and the height of land toward the Lakes, forming the northern part of the Ohio valley. It is of vast extent, 10, 20, 30, 50 to 100 or 150 miles in width, stretching from the great *Table Land*, or *Plateau*, of the S. W. of the State of New-York, across the N. W. angle of Pennsylvania, increasing in width but diminishing in altitude through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, to the Mississippi, or very nearly. This extent embraces, including its curvatures, at least 700 miles of this range of formation. Similar formations may be traced on the northern side of the Ohio, and indeed almost every where, along water courses and waters, occasionally interrupting the continuousness of the larger formations. They may be traced along the borders of several of the great Lakes of the west, and the smaller ones; along the Genesee, the Lt. Lawrence, the Black River, curiously conspicuous in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties, of New-York. That fine peninsula of Upper Canada, between the great Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, is almost all of this character, as is much of Michigan, the formation extending S. into Indiana, meeting the great range of the northern part of the Ohio valley. We find such, also, on the Mohawk, superior soil for Farming, compared with its far famed alluvial flats, because, with good Husbandry, equally fertile, and adapted to a greater variety of products, and affording more sure crops. But I need not dwell longer on localities, having pointed out enough to justify my starting positions, and to awaken public attention, all that I need aim at.

September 18, 1831.

ITEMS OF HUSBANDRY,

From various sources.

SHEEP FED WITH PEA STRAW.

Sir John Sinclair says "here is no food of which Sheep are fonder than pea straw; and where circumstances are favorable to that crop, peas ought to be cultivated merely for the straw, from the advantages that would thence be derived by the sheep farmer." Mr. Young also observes that "the straw of early white peas, applied to sheep, is the most valuable return made by straw."

PREPARING STRAW FOR CATTLE FOOD.

The ancients were accustomed to prepare their straw for feeding stock, by keeping it for a considerable time sprinkled with brine; it was then dried, rolled up in bundles, and given oxen instead of hay.

MANAGEMENT OF GRASS LANDS.

Rolling was formerly considered to be indispensable in the management of grass lands, tending to smooth and consolidate the surface; to prevent the formation of ant-hills; to promote the growth of valuable herbage; and to render the effects of drought less pernicious. But scarifying the turf with a plough, consisting only of coulters and harrow teeth, so that the whole surface may be cut or torn is to be recommended, *when the pastures are hide bound.* That tenacious state rolling tends to increase; whereas by scarifying, the surface is loosened, and the roots acquire new means of improved vegetation. This operation seems particularly useful, when it precedes the manuring of grass lands; for if well scarified, the ground is so opened, that any manure spread on it, gets at once to the roots; consequently a small quantity thus applied, goes as far as a larger one laid on in the old mode, and without such an operation. Thus the force of objections to the application of putrescent manure to grass lands is in some degree obviated.

SOILING.

By soiling is meant the feeding of stock in a house, shed, or fold, with cut green food, instead of making the grass into hay or pasturing the field.

Working horses, or oxen, derive great advantage from soiling. They are saved the trouble of collecting their food after their work is over; can fill themselves much sooner, and consequently have more time to rest; and can take their repose much better in a stable or shed, with plenty of litter, than in the open field, where there are so many things to annoy them.

The experiments of soiling cattle have likewise been successful. Young steers become more tractable for work; nor is there any risk of cattle being hoven, if their food is mowed two days in advance. For milch cows in particular, it is highly expedient to soil them, at least in the middle of the day, that they may not be tormented with flies in the field, nor induced to stand in brooks or ponds of water, nor in the shade of spreading trees or hedges, by which much valuable manure is lost. The stock are thus kept in a healthier state, and the milk is of a superior quality.—*New England Farmer.*

At Richmond, Va., on the 29th ult. they had a snow storm 3 inches deep.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

MR. NAMAN GOODELL:

Sir—In your preface to my remarks on Agricultural Societies published in the Farmer of the 28th ult., you have said that "it was through my exertions mainly, the Society was kept in existence for one year after the expiration or the State Law."

This was giving me too much credit: I do not claim so much merit for the services I rendered. But there were a number of spirited and enterprising individuals,—others, as well as farmers, who justly deserve your compliments; and I endeavored to keep up with them in their efforts to sustain the Society. But all, of no avail;—for the farmers would not sustain it by voluntary contributions.

As I before remarked, they had mostly acquired their limited education under the disadvantges of a seven years' War, which had exhausted the country of its present means, and they could not appreciate the progress of the sciences and the march of the human mind, left free as air for ratiociation and investigation, by the results of our glorious Revolution. They did not apprehend how the science of chimistry was brought in to the aid of the art of farming, by analyzing the various soils and also of manures, by adopting the one to amend the deficiencies of the other: nor the uses of Botany, which has developed the fact that the vegetable, as well as the animal kingdom, have their male and female sexes for reproduction, and which, by two different species of the same genus being commixed, may be made to produce a third variety. They had imbibed a prejudice against *book knowledge*, and reasoned on farming as they did on philosophy: "*I will never believe it possible for any man to tell how far it is from the Earth to the Moon, unless he has been there and measured the distance.*"

ELKANAH WATSON is the father of Agricultural Societies in America. He had travelled in Europe, and was one of the few Americans, travelling abroad, who borrowed from whatever he saw of public utility in the Institutions and National Works of other countries, and brought them home to his country's benefit. After his return, he established an Agricultural Society in Berkshire County, Mass., on voluntary subscriptions, where it was sustained through his instrumentality for many years, and I believe is still in existence. His efforts on canals were very laudable and early—beginning in 1791.

DE WITT CLINTON, who, in the magnificence of his mind, was devising various means to expand the prosperity and grandeur of New-York, was influential in procuring the Act of 7th Ap: 1819, for the establishment of Agricultural Societies in this State, which granted $10,000 for the county premiums, and $1,000 for the State Board, to purchase grain, grass-seeds, &c. for general distribution.

We may presume that Mr. Clinton had in view the elevation of the character of the principal tax-payers and voters of the State, from the semi-servile grade of *yeomen* and *plebeians* of the old world, to that of Citizen Farmers, of the new:—and many of our citizens of other vocations, catching the spirit of Clinton, cheerfully lent their aid, in organizing and conducting the Societies to further the object. I wish to justify these men from the prejudices excited against them and the Societies, in consequence of their gratuitous services.

But our penurious Legislature granted this bounty on condition, that each county should raise by voluntary contribution, a sum equal to its quota, for two years, only;—and afterwards refused to extend their grant.

However, there was some apology for them at that time, being a period of experiments—for the State was then incurring a heavy debt, to make a long canal by way of experiment:—and in 1821 enacted the celebrated two million Bill; which was the efficient means of carrying the canal through the mountain ridge to Lake Erie.—[There are some incidental facts relating to the passage of that Bill into a Law, which deserve to be preserved in the history of our State: but this is not exactly the place for the narration.]

But *now*, since our experiment on canals has resulted in the most stupendous success,—far beyond all predictions or conceptions of the days of its projection and commencement—yielding a revenue of one and a fourth million, and progressively increasing to two millions, we should suppose our State Treasury could well afford to disburse the small sum of $12,800 to cherish the labors of its hardy tax-payers;—a sum which could be saved out of the cheese-parings and candle-ends of our State Revenues.

It would be still better to make up the sum to $150 for each Member of Assembly, and omit the injunction requiring private contributions, and obviate one of the objections to the former Societies; that of taxing the POOR a dollar for their admission (for I believe it was the covetousness for the dollar that formed the main source of all the objections), then, to add $2,800 for the expenditures of the State Board, and make a sum of $22,000 of annual appropriation. This sum would be about the one twentieth or the one twenty-fifth part of what the State has already granted by appropriations and lotteries, for colleges, to educate the sons of the rich. J. HAWLEY.

Rochester, Feb. 7th, 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

ALTERNATE HUSBANDRY.

There are few stronger indications of bad husbandry, to a secluded mind, than are furnished by the advertisements for the sale of farms.—"*Suitably divided into meadows, pasture and plough land,*" are common recommendations, showing that the old system still prevails of assigning to each of those objects a portion of the farm in perpetuity,—in despite of the examples of better husbandry, and the admonitions of common sense. No meadows will bear cutting many successive years, without deteriorating in quantity, and generally in quality. No land can be subjected to perpetual tillage, without a greater supply of manure than most farmers are able to give it. The grasses will run out, in the one, and fertility will become exhausted in the other. There are comparatively few meadows, which, if drained (and if wet they will not produce fine grasses) will not yield good grain, roots or pulse. And there is no tillage land but will produce grass. Alternation of crops is the main spring of profitable farming. Grass and grain are in this way made to benefit each other: The roots and haulm of the grass become food for the grain; while the culture of the grain pulverizes and ameliorates the soil for the succeeding crop of grass. Good economy requires, that the meadow should be ploughed, and the ploughed land stocked with grass, whenever a manifest diminution in the crop is perceptible. Upon light soils, when even well managed, this will ordinarily happen once in every three or four years. Experience must have shown every farmer, that he cannot raise a good crop of wheat, of corn, or of flax, &c. upon the same field, for several years in succession. And why? Because every species of plant takes from the soil a specific food which other species do not take. The same law applies to grasses and grains, with this difference, that grain consumes more than grass of the food common to both, and therefore sooner impoverishes the soil. J. B.

TOMATO.

When I wrote you that this fruit might be preserved in brine for winter use, I had only used it in soups, where I did not readily detect the want of the acid. Subsequent trials have shown, that it loses by the saving process, the acid which commends it as a table sauce, and that my conclusions of its value were too hastily formed.

J. B.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

ENGLISH WILDING OR CRAB.

In J. BUEL's reply to the Editor of this paper (Vol. 2, No. 2,) the following passage occurs: "The *crab* by general consent is said to be the original parent of all the cultivated sorts [of apples];" and T. NUTTALL in his *Genera of North American Plants*, remarks: "It is not in the wilds of uncultivated nature that we are to obtain [varieties] worthy of cultivation; were this the case, Europe would to the present have known no other Malus than the *worthless and austere crab* in place of the finest apple." In both these extracts, the *English crab* or *wilding* is to be understood, and not the American crab which constitutes a different species.

Of those eminent men, the former has no superior in the knowledge of rural affairs; nor the latter as a philosophical botanist; and the same opinion in regard to the English crab is generally held by modern authors on this subject. I differ from them, however, and believe *the English crab is a different species from the common apple.*—Consequently, if this is so, the extraordinary changes ascribed to the former, have not happened.

It appears from GRAY's *Natural Arrangement of British Plants*, that the celebrated RAY who had reduced many of the *assumed* species of his predecessors to mere varieties, was satisfied that the apple tree and the English crab were distinct, naming the latter *Malus sylvestris* (of the woods) and the former *Malus sativa* (or the planted).—His specific characters are not in my possession; but from GRAY's and EATON's descriptions, the following permanent differences are obtained:

Malus sylvestris. *Leaves* ovate, acute, villous underneath; *styles* bald; *fruit* the size of a chesnut, acerb, astringent, austere.

Malus sativa. *Leaves* ovate-oblong, acuminate, glabrous; *styles* villous; *fruit* more or less sweet.

I have used the names of RAY without intending to interfere with modern nomenclature; and will now proceed to examine whether those differences are of sufficient importance to constitute specific characters. If we refer to other genera, we shall find that many species are marked by features apparently more trivial: thus in *Scleranthus*, one species is distinguished only by the *spreading* calyx of the fruit, from another species which has the calyx *closed;* one species of *Capsicum* with *globose* fruit and *smooth* stalks, from another with *oblong* fruit and *pubescent* stalks; one species of *Lasiopetalum* with sepals *smooth inside*, from another with sepals *hoary on both sides;* and one species of *Cedrela* with calyx and corolla *naked*, from another species with calyx and corolla *fringed*. Such examples might be greatly multiplied, but it will be coming more directly to the point, to examine the characters which distinguish other species of *Pyrus* from one another; and the distinctness of the following species I believe has never been questioned. The *down* on the leaf of the common quince specifically separates it from the Chinese quince with *smooth* leaves; and the leaf of *Pyrus domestica*, *villous beneath*, distinguishes it from *Pyrus aucuparia* with leaves *smooth on both sides*. But it may be briefly remarked in regard to *leaves*, that the difference in shape between *ovate* and ovate-oblong, helps to distinguish nine out of twenty-four species of *Pyrus* which are given in *Loudon's Encyclopedia of Plants;* that the difference between *acute* and *acuminate*, helps to mark six species; that *smoothness* or *pubescence** is employed in the characters of EIGHTEEN of those twenty-four species; and we further observe that *smoothness* or *wooliness* of the *styles*, constitute a part of THREE specific characters.

It will therefore appear that the differences between the English crab and the common apple, are such as botanists employ in the characters of other species of *Pyrus;* and that these, being *permanent*, sufficiently mark those trees as specifically distinct. In this remark I do not include the difference between those *fruits* (crabs and apples); but these have been found so *unchangeable* in the one, and with so slight a disposition to approximate in the other, that the same sense of propriety and advantage, which induced botanists properly to separate the other species, ought to induce them to separate in a similar manner, the English crab from the apple.

NUTTALL defines the term, SPECIES, "a group or subdivision of plants agreeing with each other, not only in their fructification, but in all other essential and permanent parts, and always reproducing the same kind." Now if we apply this rule to the foregoing characters of the English crab and the common apple, we shall find that they do *not* "agree with each other in several essential and permanent parts;" neither have the seeds of the one, ever been known to produce the other. What follows is from Sir Humphrey Davy, and I trust its application will be sufficiently plain and pertinent:

"A hundred seeds of the Golden Pippin will always produce fine large leaved apple trees, bearing fruit of a considerable size; but the taste and color of the apples from each, will be different, and none will be the same as the pippin itself; some will be sweet, some sour, some bitter, some mawkish, some aromatic; some yellow, some green, some red, and some streaked; all the apples however will be more perfect [large and palatable] than those from *the seeds of the crab*, which *produce trees all of the same kind, and all bearing sour and diminutive fruit.*"

1 *mo.* 30, 1832. D. THOMAS.

*Used in the general sense of the term. See Sumner's Botany, p. 95 & 159.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.

We are glad our friend D. T. has touched upon the subject of the *English wilding or crab tree.* There has existed a strange misunderstanding about *crabs.* The term *wilding*, or *crab tree*, as formerly used in England, is synonymous with our term, *seedling*. In Gerard's Historie of Plants the following expressions are made use of: "*Like as there be divers manured apples, so are there sundry wilde apples or crabs.*"—"*There be divers wilde apple trees not husbanded, that is to say, not grafted.*" Parkinson, in speaking of "wildings or crabs," says: "*There is the town crab, the greater and lesser red crab.*" Again, "*the wildings or crabs grow in woods generally, yet are planted in the hedges in many countries of this land, to make cider withall.*" Miller in his Dictionary of Gardening and Botany says: "*for all those trees which are produced from the seeds before they are grafted are termed crabs, without any distinction.*" Withering, in his Arrangement of British Plants, in speaking of *Pyrus*, says: "We must compare it with the *only two British species*, and are soon enabled to determine whether we have got the *Pyrus communis* (pear) or *Pyrus malus* (apple). He also says, "*The apple is a native of Europe; but whence we acquired the numerous cultivated varieties of this fruit is not known.*"* In speaking of the sweet-scented crab tree (Pyrus coronaria) he says, "*Gronovius first remarked it in Virginia.*" Klam says "*that this tree is rather scarce in New Jersey, but plentiful in Pennsylvania.*" Of the narrow leaved crab tree (Pyrus angustifolia) Miller says: "*Native of North America*, was cultivated in 1750 by Mr. Christopher Gray, nurseryman at Fulham." Neither of the authors above referred to claim any variety of what we know as crabs to be of English origin, and we know that our American crabs do not mix with the common apple.

*From all that can be gathered on the subject, it is plain that the apple was not a native of England, but the time of its introduction into that Island is not agreed upon.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

THE CURCULIO—NO. II.

The Curculio, (of which there are more than 600 species enumerated in the last edition of Linnaeus, and yet the one under consideration is not named) belongs to the order *Coleoptera*, having a scaly sheath, or *Elytra*, covering the wings, which are folded transversely by doubling one part upon another in the form of plaits, and when extended are much longer than the shells or sheath.

The Antennae, horns, or feelers, short and clubbed at the ends.

The most striking feature is a prominent curved horny snout, or *proboscis*, projecting from the upper part of the head, with which it makes the circular incision in which the egg is deposited.

The whole insect is not more than a quarter of an inch long, of a dark brown color; the sheath covering the wings and abdominal parts, a little variegated with lighter colors, and quite exactly the shade, shape and color of a ripe hemp seed, and about the same size.

Their general contour and appearance is that of one of the small species of spiders, called the jumping spider, that keeps its legs close to its body, with the exception of the scaly covering to its wings.

The first correct notice that I find taken of this insect, is by the celebrated and late Doct. Mitchel of N. Y., in which you, Mr. Editor, figure as the first successful discoverer of this little pest to all the lovers of fine fruit; and I must certainly award to you the merit of a great degree of modesty, or you would have adverted to it, and claimed the honor of your discovery before now, considering the wonderful degree of inquiry its ravages have excited.

In the 6th vol. of the American Farmer, page 183, printed in 1824, Doctor Mitchel, in answer to N. Goodsell, says: "When you brought to me a few days ago, a green and growing plum that had been invaded by an insect; I gave perfect attention to the discourse you made, and the demonstrations which accompanied it.

"You gave me the most conclusive evidence, that the skin of the young fruit was divided by a sort of semi-circular incision, or scratch; that within or beneath it, an egg or nit was deposited, and that when the hatching process had gone far enough, there was a worm, or *larvæ*, which had eaten its way to the surface of the stone, or woody box containing the kernel.

"This then was proof enough that the *integuments* had been penetrated; the rudiments of the destroyer inserted, and in several of the specimens, the grub or caterpillar was actually devouring the pulp.

"As soon as I expressed a desire as to what the parent insect or *imago* was, you procured the creature which you assured me had laid the egg; *shy, retiring*, and difficult to catch; but which you had nevertheless by your perseverance succeeded in seizing on a tree at Harlaem.

"It instantly became a matter of business, or indeed of duty for me, connected as I am with Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, to determine the zoological character of the animal, with whose history you had made me so far acquainted.

"It belongs to *Tetrameres* or *Portebecco*, a section of the Coleopterous order, having the fore part of the head lengthened into a sort of a muzzle mouth or proboscis, bearing the *antennae* or feelers.

"The genus might seem on superficial examination to be the *Brouchus*, whose females are noted for laying an egg in the germ while yet tender and small, of leguminous plants, cereal grains, palm, coffee, and several other plants, where it feeds and undergoes its metamorphosis, forming on its exit those circular holes, which we see in lentils, and more especially in peas.

"A more correct judgment, however, refers it to the tribe of Curculio, *Charanson* or *Weevil*, and to that section comprehending the individuals whose *antennae* or feelers are situated near the extremity of a short trump.

"I had scarcely proceeded further than this point in the inquiry, when you brought me from a neighboring plantation a few miles out of town, the twigs of a cherry tree bearing fruit, assailed and injured in a similar manner by the semi-circular gashes or wounds, and with it the living author of the mischief. And now we know the enemy that mars our expectations of enjoying tasteful fruits. I expect you to prosecute researches until all its manners and habits shall be known, and a mode of preventing its ravages shall be detected."

This was undoubtedly the veritable little villain which annoys us so much, and I admire that so little has been done on the score of scientific investigation, since the time Doct. M so well described this insect.

I would suggest to Entomologists, that its descriptive cognomen should indicate it as the *stone fruit Curculio*, as I think it quite a different species from the one that attacks the apple, pear, and other seed fruits and causes them to become *wormy;* a complaint which did not exist in this western country till within three or four years past, and which will probably prevail here as it has and now does to the eastward. It is most probable that like the Bee moth, the Locust, Borer, &c. that its motions are progressive: and it is to be hoped that, together with its *congener*, the stone fruit destroyer, that it may prove periodical at the worst, like the Locust, with a period of return as long as a comet, or like "Angel's visits, few and far between."

These remarks have already extended to so great a length that I will omit giving my ideas on the preventive system until my next communication. Your old friend,

Feb'y. 13, 1832. B. MANLY.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

THE ISABELLA GRAPE.

MR. EDITOR—I have read with much pleasure the letter from Mr. PRINCE, on the Isabella Grape, in answer to some observations submitted by me in a former paper. His letter is frank and manly, and withal quite interesting. My principal object in mentioning what I did as to the Norwich Isabella Grape, was to elicit information on that subject. That much is due to Mr. Prince the elder, in bringing it forward and spreading it so widely through the country, every one must admit; for I do certainly consider it the best grape, taken all together, that I have yet seen.—The fact of the same grape being in existence in Newport thirty years ago, rather substantiates the fact of the identity of the Norwich vine, which your correspondent *Vitis* affects to doubt. Now in this latter fact there is no mistake. For twenty years there was no other vine in the garden. It grew, and now grows on the south side of a large barn, which it overrun for many years, and the original stock is several inches in diameter. It is the parent of numberless vines around the neighborhood, and it was not identified with the Isabella till some vines were purchased in New-York and brought there for cultivation, but a few years since.

As to the origin of the grape, I perhaps stand corrected by Mr. Prince. I supposed that it might have been brought from Cuba by Mr. Vernet; or if not, he might have obtained it at New-York, where he did much of his business. If he were now in America I would endeavor to ascertain. I do not know, in fact, if he is living. He resided a few years ago, I believe, at or near Havanna in Cuba. If the grape were a native of the United States, I supposed (and that was why I made the remark doubting its being a native, of original stock) it to be a *hybrid* from a native grape crossed with a rich European fruit; whence its thin skin, oral figure and soft pulp, in which properties it fully equals, when quite ripe, most foreign grapes. It may, however, as Mr. Prince seems to think, be an original of our American soil. But if so, it appears to me rather strange that no specimens are now known growing in a wild state, which I have never heard to be the fact. Now, could not the early settlers of Georgia and Carolina, some of whom we are informed by M. P. the elder, were extensive vine growers, have produced that grape by seeds of their exotics or native varieties, crossed as I before suggested? It strikes me as being the most natural conclusion, if the grape originated in that country, as Mr. P. rather insists.

I have for many years been conversant with the native grape—not scientifically, or professionally. I have known them long in the valleys of New England, where they flourish in vast abundance, and cover whole patches of forest with their luxuriant purple clusters. I have also traced them in great quantities down the picturesque valley of the Susquehannah, from Oswego to Berwick and Nescopeck, and in the valleys of the Lehigh and Schuylkill. In none of my ranges have I seen any thing at all resembling the Isabella. But this might have been, as Mr P. observes, on account of being too high latitude for the Isabella to flourish wild. I have always observed when grapes grew spontaneously in any place, that there generally were several vines of a kind in the same neighborhood, which produced the impression in my mind, that were the Isabella indigenous, it might still be growing in a wild state in its native location. I do not say that there are not exceptions to this fact, but general observation has convinced me that more than one individual of a family of grapes are generally to be found where they exist in a wild state. I have found a great many kinds of wild grape, and some of most excellent qualities, but none equal in the whole to the Isabella. I am now cultivating some of them, and hope this year to have specimens of their fruit to compare with it; but I do not expect they will at all equal it. It has so far, with an equal chance, outstripped them all in growth, and I have some very vigorous natives too.

Another thing has caused me to be somewhat skeptical as to the American origin of the Isabella. It has a leaf and wood that is unlike any other I ever saw. The leaf is much larger than any native, and is nearly as gray on the backside as the Miller grape. The wood is unlike other native grapes, being straighter and not so much inclined to wind about in different directions.—The whole vine also has a more cultivated and domestic appearance. After all, it may be an original of our forests, but it is rather singular that it cannot be traced to its native grounds, when every other native grape of any worth has its history, and some kinds has been found indigenous in several places. I truly hope that Mr. Prince will yet trace its origin, as he is on the track; and I also wish him much success in spreading it all over our country, for it cannot be too highly reccommended to all classes of our citizens.

I fully believe if our farmers would plant only half the orchards they do, except where apples are raised for market; and those trees which compose the orchard selected of the best kinds of apples for the table and kitchen, and then cultivate one quarter of an acre of Isabella or other hardy grapes, and make wine instead of so much cider, it would be better for them. The grapes are easily cultivated, will bear in two years, and the fruit is readily gathered and made up with less trouble than cider. The liquor is abundantly better, not containing half the alcohol, and more friendly to the human system. Eating heartily of meat, and drinking hard cider, makes out a stupid sort of a man; and if he indulges in the one, the other has a great inclination to go with it, if to be had.

Only think of some families, and moderate ones too in point of numbers, using ten to twenty barrels cider in a year! In the first place it is a great expense. In the next place it does no good, for a man may drink cider once in half an hour all day and be always thirsty. In fact, I never knew an old cider drinker who was not always dry. I can tell him as far as I see him. His eyes are red and protruded from his head; his skin is red and firey, and when he approaches near enough, he smells like an old cider mill. Ten to one he chews tobacco enormously, and then he is next cousin to a drunkard. Upon the whole, this inveterate cider drinking is a bad habit to get into; and so long as our people will have a substitute for water, let them cultivate the Isabella Grape, and make light wines, which are full as cheap and much better than cider. ULMUS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

TO DESTROY RATS.

MR. GOODSELL—I send you the following extract from the London Mechanic's Magazine, as an answer to the inquiry of *Ulmus*, and for the benefit of all who may be troubled with a superabundant stock of Rats: Q.

But I must proceed to the purpose of this letter, which is, to acquaint such of your readers as may be troubled with rats, that they may poison them with a substance which is not poisonous, and with which there is no danger of their dogs, poultry, pigs, children or neighbors, being any of them poisoned.

Let those who wish to poison rats without applying to the chemist, *intimately* mix a pound of plaister of Paris (in its unslacked state) with an equal quantity of oat or corn meal. Let him place this within the reach of the rats they will eat of it eagerly and without being deterred by any bad taste.—By the humidity contained in their stomachs, the plaister of Paris will "set" and form an indigestible, hard mass, which will in fact present upon dissection a good cast of the rat's stomach, and speedily produce a kind of Aldermanic death, *i. e.* by irremediable indigestion.*

*It was on an analogous principle that the ancients, especially the Greeks, used bull's blood as a poison, which being drank fresh drawn, formed an indigestible coagulum in the stomach. In this manner we are told that Midas, Dioscorides, Hannibal,

Nither dogs, poultry children, nor neighbors, will lap or pick up a dry, pulverulent mixture like this. I cannot quite answer for pigs; but I am pretty sure that neither a quadruped nor a biped hog, whatever might be his appetite, would be inclined or capable of swallowing enough of such an inconvenient "exhibition" to occasion the fatal indigestion which I know it will infallibly cause in rats and mice. Any how, it must be evident to most men, that no such danger can attend the employment of plaister of Paris, as of arsenic, nux vomica, or corrosive sublimate, for the purchase of which, moreover, there would no longer be any pretence.

Rats are very intelligent animals; so the better to beguile them, it is well to begin by giving them pure meal. Those who first discover and partake of it, will speedily communicate the glad tidings to their relatives and neighbors who may then be swept off all at once; as we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing occur to the far more rapacious, mischievous and detestable biped boroughing (burrowing) fraternity.

I have not had an opportunity of trying the mixture of oatmeal and plaster of Paris upon the beetles which infest kitchens, but I think it will be found efficacious.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

Premiums awarded by the Rensselaer County Horticultural Society.

A committee of the council of the Rensselaer County Horticultural Society, met at Lansingburgh, November 24th, 1831, to award premiums; and having a little time at their disposal, made visits to some of the neighboring gardens.

Mr. Learned presented a choice sample of gooseberry wine, and some very good currant and grape wine. A box of raisins from the grapes of the present year. A bushel and a peck of Sweet Potatoes from a single potatoe.

Mr. Abraham C. Lansing, very superior Winter Squash, French Sugar Beet, and good Salmon Radish.

Mr. T. Fondham, three kinds South American Winter Squash, very fine, (seed of which will be presented to the Society at their next meeting.) Apples of 1830 perfectly sound.

Mr. G. Peoples, very extraordinary Blood Beet.

Mr. Alexander Walsh, Cauliflower, Broad Bean, Spanish Radish, Hybrid Turnip, Drumhead and Cow Cabbage, Celery, Double white Japan Rose, a beautiful Orange Tree, 15 perfectly ripe oranges, Great American Aloe *(Agave americana,)* Tree Aloe *(Aloe arborea)* 6½ feet high.

Messrs. Gorham, Nicholl and McAuley, very fine Cauliflower.

The gardens generally looked clean, and in a fine state of preparation for the approaching rude visitation of winter. A growing taste for the fascinating pleasures of horticulture, appears very evident, and the commendable rivalship created by the acts of this Society, we think have added a stimulus to taste and industry.

The following is a list of the premiums awarded for the past year.

April 12. Mr. David C. Norton, on Radishes and Asparagus.

June 1. Mr. Charles Kilby on Peas and Potatoes.

June 14. Mr. S. Gorham on Potatoes; Mr. Amos Briggs on Strawberries.

July 12. Mr. David C. Norton on Beans, Cucumbers; Early Squashes and Peas; Mr. Roller, Green Corn; Mr. Richard P. Hart, Apples; Mr. Amos Briggs, Currants and Gooseberries.

August 9. Mr. Alexander Walsh, Lima Beans, Green Globe Artichokes, Broad Beans; Mr. David C. Norton, Muskmelon; Mr. S. Gorham, Cauliflowers.

September 13. Mr. David C. Norton, Cauliflowers, Savoy Cabbage, Celery, Sweet Potatoes, Muskmelons, and a variety of vegetables; Mr. Alexander Walsh, Vegetable Oysters, and best variety of flowers; Mr. Richard P. Hart, Peaches: Mr. John D. Dickinson, Plums; Mr. T. Walters, Watermelon; Mr. Horatio G. Spafford, 1st premium on Grapes; Mr. Amos Briggs, 2d premium Do.

October 11. Mr. David C. Norton, Pears; Mr. H. G. Spafford, Squashes; Mr. Amos Briggs Quinces; Mr. S. Gorham, Cauliflower; Mr. Alexander Walsh, on new, rare and useful vegetables.

The officers will not lessen the funds of the Society by taking their premiums.

Mr. David C. Norton has taken as a part of his premiums, two volumes of the New-York Farmer, and all that is published of the Genesee Farmer.

The premium to be paid hereafter on white mulbery trees has induced many to attempt raising them.

The committee on Fruit Trees, &c. have paid particular atttention to the many choice fruits which have been sent to the Society at its several exhibitions, and will be enabled at the proper time next season, to say where may be obtained gratuitously, buds, cuttings, layers, &c. They would urge the farmers and gardeners to pay attention to improving their plums, cherries, apples and pears.

NIAGARY DISTRICT

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

AGREEABLE to notice, a number of the members of this Society met at Mr. W. Dittrick's Inn, St. Catharines, this day. 10th Jan. 1832—present,

George Adams, President.
Cyrus Sumner, } Vice-Presidents.
Adam Stull, }
John Lampman, } Directors.
Dennis Woolverton, }
John Gibson, Treasurer.
Samuel Wood, Secretary.

J. H. Kilborne, Mr. Nixon, H. N. Monson, J. T. Bowrey, N. Pawling, Thomas Darling, Mr. Smith, and others—Members.

Resolved, That a Committee of five members be formed, for the purpose of revising the constitution and by-laws of the society—three of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Resolved, That the Committee shall consist of one Vice-President and four Directors with as many members as choose to attend; and that Cyrus Sumner, Dennis Woolverton, John Lampman, John Clark and Adam Konkle do compose the same—said Committee to meet on the first Thursday in February, at the inn of John Henry Kilborne, in Clinton, at 10 o'clock A. M. the Secretary producing the papers for their use.

Resolved, That a book shall be purchased, and the constitution, by-laws and minutes of the society, regularly entered therein.

Resolved, That the Treasurer and Secretary shall be paid from the funds of the Society, reasonable compensations for their trouble, viz: five shillings per day for all necessary time expended in the service of the society.

Resolved, That after the semi-annual fair, to be held at St. Catharines in May next, the whole proceedings of the society shall be printed in pamphlet form, and distributed throughout the district, for the benefit of members and others; and that one copy of the same be sent to each Agricultural Society in the province.

Resolved, That the Judges hereafter to be appointed, shall be particularly instructed not to assign prizes to any person or persons, in any manner whatever, unless the articles proposed for exhibition shall be considered worthy, by at least two-thirds of the Judges present.

Resolved, That the fair intended to be held at St. Catharines, shall continue for two days in succession, that sufficient time may be given to competitors residing at a distance; and for the sale of all things offered for disposal.

Resolved, That one-half of all the moneys raised the present year for agricultural purposes, shall be laid out in purchasing approved breeds of bulls, cows and rams for the use of the society.

Resolved, That proper persons be chosen to select and purchase the improved stock aforesaid; and that George Adams, Esq. and Mr. Dennis Woolverton be appointed for that purpose.

Resolved, That all the Vice-Presidents and Directors be required to use their utmost endeavors, in soliciting subscriptions immediately—so that the sum of £50 may be raised, to enable the President to draw the £100 granted by the Legislature before it is too late; otherwise it will be lost to the society the present year.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to each Vice-President and Director, requesting them to use their best exertions in raising the subscriptions required, and to transmit the amount with as little delay as possible, to the Treasurer of the society.

GEO. ADAMS, President.
SAMUEL WOOD, Secretary.

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and a multitude of others, terminated their existence; a rather round-about method this, compared to the modern Prussic acid operation.

FEMALE SELF-SUPPORTING SCHOOL.

We have formerly suggested the practicability of forming *Female Self-Supporting Schools*, by the introduction of the *Silk Worm*; and we mentioned an establishment of this kind in Gautemala. The following notice shows very clearly that it is a safe project:

'*Domestic Silk.*—We have been shown by Messrs. Pratt, How, & Co., merchants of this city, a piece of silk levantine, similar to the foreign article for vestings, of the same fabric, which was munufactured in Mansfield in this state. With the exception of the "finish," which has not been brought to a complete state of perfection, the quality of the goods shown to us will compare with the imported product. We understand from the Courant, that the inhabitants of Mansfield have for many years been engaged in raising silk worms, and that a large quantity of sewing silk has been annually manufactured there, from which a handsome income has been derived; but that until recently, no attempts have been made at weaving. A manufactory of this kind is now in operation, with the most favorable prospect of success.—*Connecticut Mirror.*

Are there none of our benevolent females who will undertake the noble task of forming an institution for their own sex, which shall supply the means of useful labor and self-support as well as of instruction, and prepare able teachers for our earliest schools? Are not the means obvious and simple?

We have seen an institution entirely established and conducted by a single female, in a mountain village of Switzerland, dispensing the blessings of gratuitous education in knowledge and useful labor to 130 children. Is the climate or character of our country less favorable to such a project?—*Annals of Education.*

Audubon.—This distinguished Ornithologist is prosecuting his tour of professional observation and discovery, through very interesting sections of the republic. Tho' busily engaged in his favorite pursuit, he does not forget his promises of correspondence with numerous Philadelphia friends. We have no hesitation in giving a few extracts from an epistle of his, dated at *Bulow-Ville*, East Florida, about forty miles south of St. Augustine:—

"The climate and productions of East Florida are enough to astonish any observing traveller, and sufficient to try even my own constitution. During my stay on the Alifax, the first day we had beautiful weather; and although it froze during the night, the alligators and butterflies were frequently seen during the day. *The woods are all green*, and yet it freezes,—a phenomenon in nature of which I had no previous knowledge.

I have drawn a new species of coot, and, *I believe*, a new species of White Pelican; but of the latter I cannot as yet be well assured, and I will wait until I examine and compare its breast, &c. with that of the bird which I know as the white pelican of authors. The birds are very few, and the difficulty of procuring them is increasing, the further South I proceed. It is true, the birds here are very large and beautiful; but where I have killed one hundred in Louisiana or Kentucky, I do not find twenty here.

My knowledge of observation, I am glad to say, has been greatly improved by means of my telescope and my sojournings among the salt marshes which every where bound the horizon, here and there interspersed with some *Land Islands*, covered with scrub trees and tall palms. I will find much to do to correct the many errors committed by C. Buonaparte in his synopsis of Water Birds; especially in the general habits which *he says*, they possess."—*Philadelphia Gaz.*

GOLDEN LEAF TOBACCO.—The late Gov. De Witt Clinton, having in his annual message to the legislature, recommended to the people of the State of New York, the culture of the *Golden Leaf Tobacco*, as a matter of great interest, and intimated that the seed might be had in the state of Maryland, the subscriber having at much expense, sent to the different parts of Maryland three years past without success, has the past spring obtained the genuine seed by means of the Hon. G. W. Angel, our member of Congress, and the crop far exceeded all expectation, and as I had not been apprised that any other person had been able to procure any of the kind, I saved seed for the benefit of the public, as will amply appear by the certificate of Judge Brooks, and E. & J. S. Perkins, Esqrs.

ZERUBABEL MATTESON.

We certify that the past summer after we had set out our common tobacco about three weeks, we learnt that Z. Matteson had golden leaf plants. We got some, and say that more than three times the yield, was produced of them than of the common kind—was as early and as pleasant for use, as soon as cured, as the old kind, years old. We believe that a boy 14 years old, will raise a ton with less than a month's labor, and that it is of high importance to the Northern States as they might, in a short time export millions of dollars worth, instead of paying it away.

THOMAS BROOKS,
E. PERKINS,
J. S. PERKINS.

Any person enclosing a dollar bill, post paid, to Matteson's Mills Post Office, Exeter, Otsego Co. N. Y., shall have a large spoonful of the above seed sent them free of postage, (sufficient for two acres.)

HIRAM MATTESON.

PLANTING MULBERRY TREES.—We are frequently asked at what distance we would plant white mulberry trees, for the purpose of feeding silk-worms. If it be intended to form full grown trees, thirty feet apart, each way, is probably the nearest that it would be advisable to plant them. Where land is abundant, forty feet would be preferable. The full grown tree generally covers a circle of twenty five to forty feet in diameter. If the hedge form be preferred, the young trees may be planted one to two feet apart; the tops to be cut off in the fall or winter of every year. In this mode, the great advantage of gathering the leaves without climbing is secured.—The hedges might be planted fifteen to twenty feet apart, and thus an acre would produce as much foliage as if occupied by large trees, and there would be a great saving of time in the production of the hedge, compared with that required to produce the large trees.—*American Farmer.*

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